

INK*

FREE
LIKE WE ALL
SHOULD BE

A COLLECTIVE VIEW
OF MODERN SOCIETY



ISSUE 10

APRIL 2021

.IN*

COMIC BOOK/'ZINE

COMICS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A TRUE ART FORM LIKE LITERATURE AND FINE ART PAINTINGS. COMICS ARE POSSIBLY THE TRUEST ART FORM BECAUSE THEY REQUIRE READERS TO FILL IN THE BLANKS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE TELLING OF A STORY. COMICS ARE A COMBINATION OF ART AND TEXT, AND THE RATIO OF EACH CAN VARY WIDELY. NOT ALL COMICS DEPICT SUPERHEROES FIGHTING DECADES-LONG BATTLES THAT GO NOWHERE.

.IN* COMIC BOOK/'ZINE AIMS TO BREAK ALL OF THE RULES WHEN IT COMES TO PANELS, THE USE OF TEXT AS GRAPHIC IMAGES AND PAGE LAYOUT. THE GOAL OF .IN* IS TO BE VISUALLY EXPERIMENTAL, MAKE AN HONEST COMMENT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR MODERN WORLD. IT IS A GUERRILLA-STYLE COMIC THAT IS INSPIRED BY THE BEAT POETS AND UNDERGROUND COMICS OF THE '60S. IT IS AN ANTHOLOGY THAT DRAWS UPON THE VISIONS OF A VARIETY OF WRITERS AND ARTISTS WITH DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW.

.IN* IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY: JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER.

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BDSM DEMONSTRATIONS IN A SAFE AND
SANE ENVIRONMENT."

'Imperfections'

Poem & drawings by Jerry Kirk

On the day that I died my life
was put before me in list balancing
good against bad. After much
deliberation judgement was rendered and
I was found to be wanting.

It was determined that I could indeed
enter the Kingdom of Heaven but
I was never to gaze upon its glory

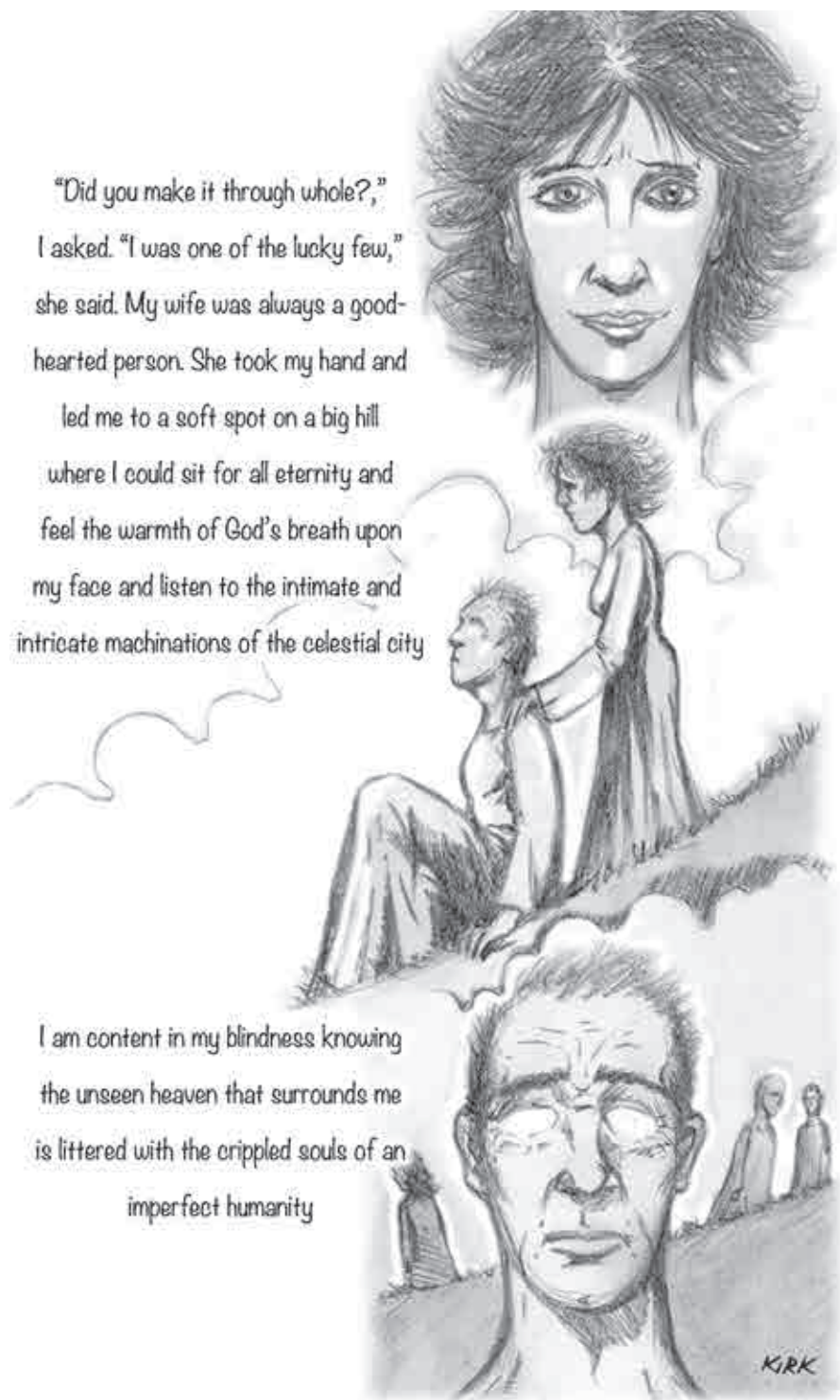
Tall gates swung open before me,
a magnificent light shown forth.
As I stepped through a guard's hand
swept across my face. I found myself then
to be without eyes.

I felt my way through till greeted
by my wife on the other side. "But when I died,"
I said, "you were still alive." "Oh my dear,
she said, "time here is certainly not linear."



"Did you make it through whole?,"
I asked. "I was one of the lucky few,"
she said. My wife was always a good-
hearted person. She took my hand and
led me to a soft spot on a big hill
where I could sit for all eternity and
feel the warmth of God's breath upon
my face and listen to the intimate and
intricate machinations of the celestial city

I am content in my blindness knowing
the unseen heaven that surrounds me
is littered with the crippled souls of an
imperfect humanity



I was born an outsider. Matter of fact, they called children like me the "outside child."



by Harriet Russell
art by Greg Russell

So, basically, my life began as an outsider, and I played that role to perfection ... always looking in from the outside ... always hoping to be a part of what was going on but not having the courage to be forthright and include myself.

So I watched things happen to me, and I tried to fit in where I could. And I would bend over backwards when given that moment in the light, trying not to leave that moment without being noticed. I tried to be everything that I was told I had to be.



But the rebel in me made it intolerable. It was a challenge to be who they wanted me to be and still be true to myself. I struggled. I grew up with the belief that I was an outsider, that I didn't fit in, that I did not belong.

So I watched and tried to mimic people who I felt "belonged" ... to pick up their identities and copy their personalities ... hoping that was the key to feeling included and accepted. That only led me to being really confused about my own identity.



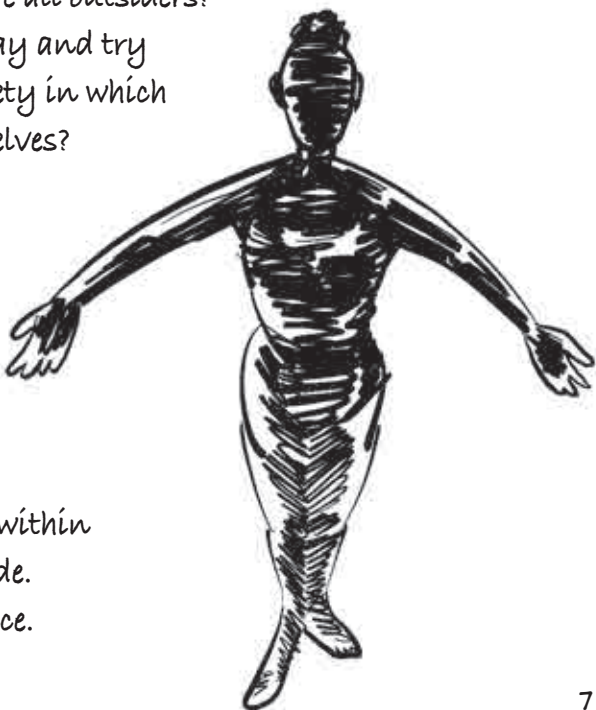
Now, as I gently and lovingly allow myself to journey for the next 365 days, I will make it a point to intentionally seek out who I really am. I am not an outsider. I never have been.

I have been lost and distracted, yes, but not an outsider.

Matter of fact, aren't we all outsiders?

Don't we all lose our way and try to find a crack in society in which we can emerge as ourselves?

I am not outside.
I am right here where
I need to be and who
I need to be. I am on
the inside of my life,
of my bubble,
and standing firmly within
its core. I am not outside.
I am my entire existence.



Henry Eudy

HOURLY COMICS DAY FEB. 1, 2021



"ANXIETY TAKES THE WHEEL"

Once upon a time, there was a woman with two brains. This did not make her twice as smart, just half as sane.

When the two brains couldn't get along,

which was most of the time, the battle could rage on until she thought her head might explode.

The first brain would say to the other,





"It's far too crowded in here. Would you please sit down? I can't see where we're going."

The second brain, feeling her oats, would say, "This skull's

not big enough for the both of us. Get out of my way. I'm driving."

If the first brain couldn't retake the wheel, the crash was always around the next bend.

— Cindy Sites-Wooley

A SIDEWALK PURRING

I WONDER WHO
WOULD JUST LEAVE
THIS OUT HERE.

WELL, WHOEVER IT
WAS THEY OBVIOUSLY
DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE.

YEA BUT WHAT'S WITH ALL THE
SPIKEY STUFF AROUND IT?



TELL YOU WHAT. GO
AHEAD, I'LL LET YOU TAKE
THE FIRST BITE

BEWARE
THAT'S HOW
ONE OF MY
BOYFRIENDS
DIED.

PSHHH WHAT AN IDIOT.
EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR SUPPOSED
TO SPIT THE SEEDS OUT.



by alex lippert

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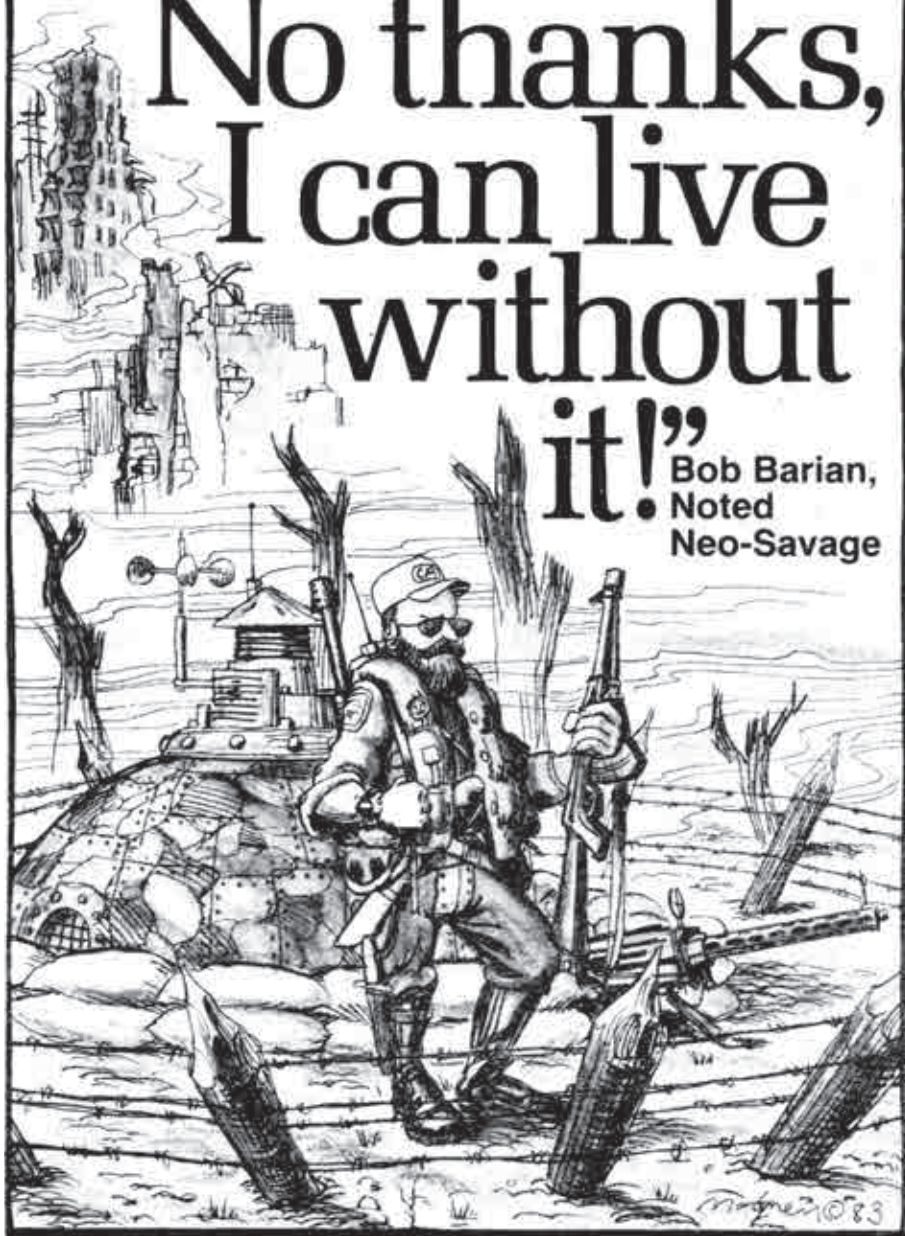
FOR THE



I saw "smothered chicken" on the menu...
I'm like, I don't need to know how they killed it.

“Civilization?
No thanks,
I can live
without
it!”

Bob Barian,
Noted
Neo-Savage



#ELLA

by Greg Russell





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The Unforeseen Brigade

by Karla Holland





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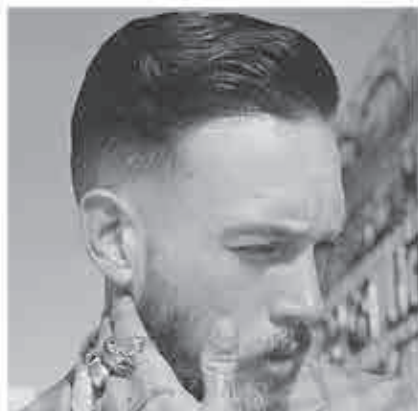


SOUTHEND

1422 S. Tryon St.
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MIDTOWN

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704-332-5220



THE MORGS

by @stencilspray

**Francis,
what are you doing?**

**Trying to cultivate
a sense of normalcy.**



**By sitting
in the dark?**

**This feels
normal.**



**But it's not normal! Lets turn
the lights on! Look at all the
beautiful--**

**Francis there's
nothing here! Your
existence is empty!**



I know that.



**...So lights
out then?**

Please.



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'The Creative Process' by Jerry Kirk

I'm so excited. This is going to be so good! Oh yeah, baby...



OH MY GOD THIS SUCKS!!
I have NO talent. I'm a
HACK! I give up! I'll NEVER
paint again!



Wow...this looks amazing!
I'm such a good artist...
maybe genius level! Wow...
just wow...



Eh...it is what it is...



CHAD'S DAD

**"I'm rich and
you're not. I
bought this ad
just to flex on
you."**

**find out more
@iamchadsdad**

Cancelled 1 & 2

by Natalie Robinson















Siren

Her words zygotie
A magnetic dame
Melody so hypnotic
The beasts became tame

A passionate zenith
Her voice entranced
Releasing the Venus
To lure his advance

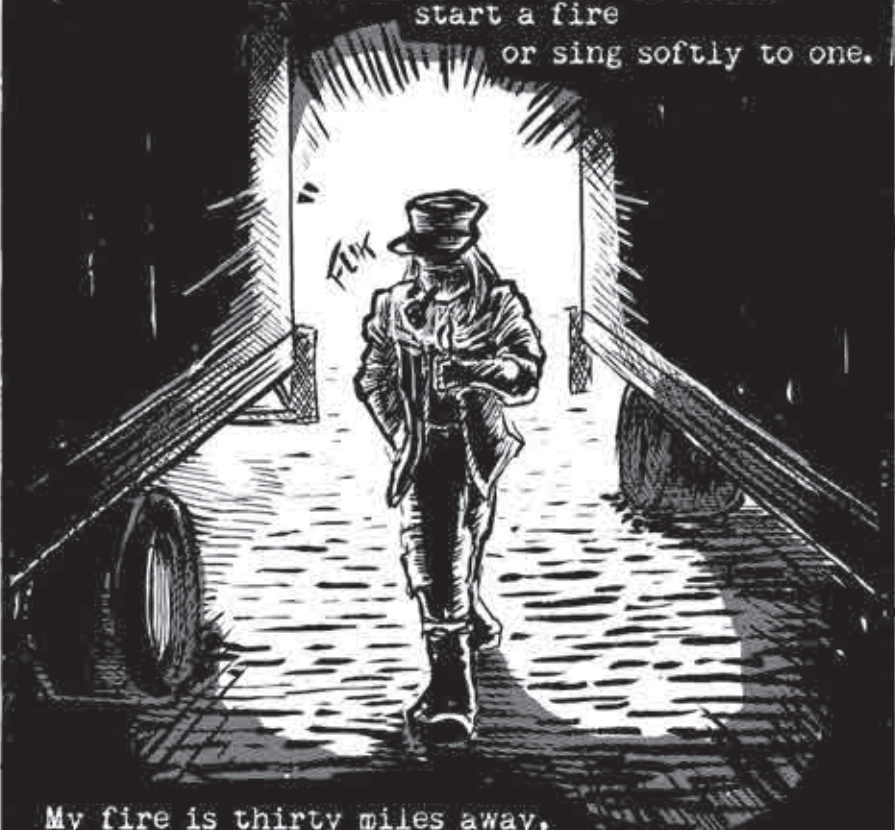
Kathleen Finch

I AM BEGINNING TO EMPATHISE WITH BUKOWSKI

by SARAH ALLEN REED

Half past eight,

I am running on zero sleep and the
sky is overcast without the
comforts of the patter of rain,
and I am in the mood to either
start a fire
or sing softly to one.



My fire is thirty miles away,
her mind buried thick in a
thesis and a TA position.

I take to my pipe instead.

The weather is cold and the sun is gone, and the spark from the lighter pales in the wind. so I stand between the box trucks in the yard as I strike the match and set a small flame alight between the rust and metal. I inhale and put the flame through my tobacco.



I am not supposed to be lighting fires here. Part of me hopes the diesel ignites and takes me with it.



The industrial park has a sitting area for the engineers whose building sits apart from the drivers and the blue-collar hands. It is a sanctuary, and I am unwelcome. I sit anyways, staring at the road.



The wood absorbs the cavendish, and the tree slightly past my view lies barren as the grass lies dead and wet. Past that is guzzoline and rubbish. Eight years of college and twenty years experience earned them this view. I sit with neither, and stoke the flame.

The gas station is a short walk across the cracks in the pavement. I open the door and greet the pink-haired cashier with crooked teeth.

She laughs, and cracks a joke. I smile without a laugh. We have the same teeth. The lever on the machine pumps coffee into a foam cup to wash down the cavendish and color mine a darker yellow.



There is a driver on a fifteen, trying his luck at the coin machine next to the coffee and the chorizo.

He laughs and sips his black abyss.

I smile, and wish I had the energy.





He grins and betrays his crooked teeth. I get the feeling neither of us were supposed to. I don't drive anymore. There are times I wish I still could. The machine beeps, and his quarter is gone again.

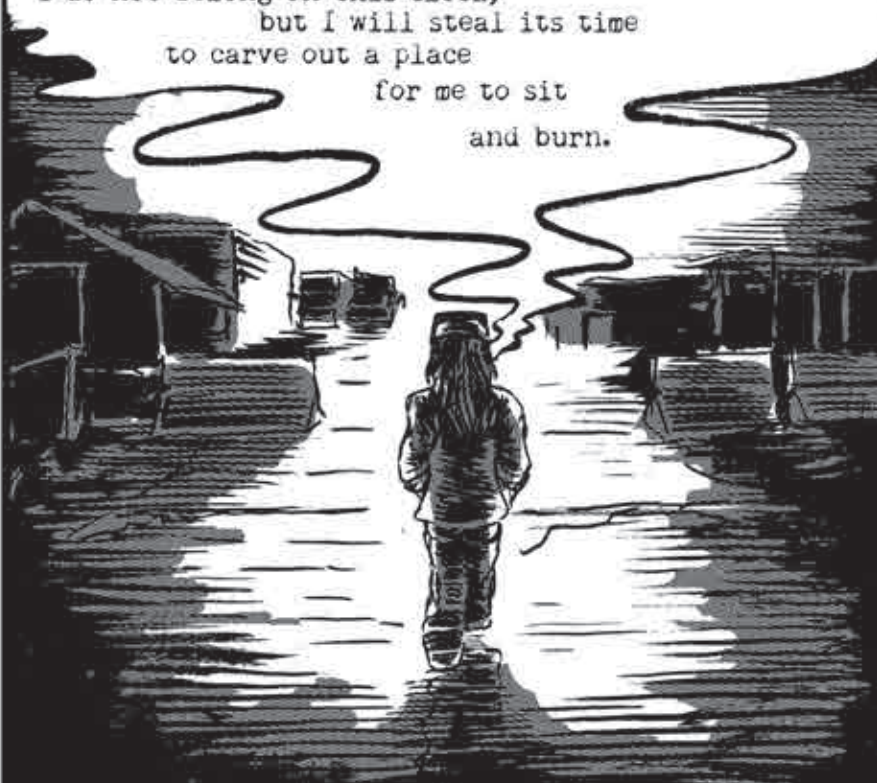


I try to purchase my foam cup, but the cashier swats my hand away. I tell her I'll see her around. She laughs and tells me she'll be here. Neither of us can really truly leave.

There are glimpses of community here, somewhere in the rust of the trucks and the rot of the wood, but they are only glimpses, brief seconds of solidarity with those who burn the midnight oil because there is nothing else that we can afford to burn.

The diesel mixes with the coffee and the cavendish that lingers on the air, and I walk back to the building meant for those with dental and pensions, intent to pen this and ignore the clock I punched an hour ago for just a minute longer.

I do not belong on this clock,
but I will steal its time
to carve out a place
for me to sit
and burn.



I do not like Bukowski.

I do not care for his misogyny,
nor his nihilism.

I am starting to realize
We don't even ask happiness. I have his teeth.
...just a little less pain.

Samuel Beckett

— CHARLES BUKOWSKI

.IN* ISSUE #10 CONTRIBUTORS



P. 1 COVER

HENRY EUDY ARTIST

ACCORDING TO HIS INSTAGRAM PROFILE, EUDY IS A WIZARD. A TRUE STAR. YOU CAN FIND SAID INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT AT HENRY_EUDY.



P. 4 IMPERFECTIONS

JERRY KIRK WRITER/ARTIST

KIRK IS AN AWARD-WINNING ARTIST WHOSE WORK IS IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE HISTORIC N. DAVIDSON ST. ART DISTRICT KNOWN AS "NODA." VISIT HIS OFFICIAL SITE AT WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM.



P. 6 THE OUTSIDER

HARRIET RUSSELL WRITER

RUSSELL IS A CREATOR OF MANY TALENTS INCLUDING POETRY. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM LIBERIA AND COMES TO CHARLOTTE VIA LONG ISLAND AND PHILADELPHIA. SHE IS A LIFE COACH, HEALTH COACH AND PERSONAL TRAINER. LEARN MORE AT P3HOLISTICHEALTH.COM.



GREG RUSSELL ARTIST

RUSSELL IS A TRUE CHARLATAN, BORN AND RAISED IN CHARLOTTE. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, WEB DESIGNER, WRITER AND EDITOR, BUT HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO IS DRAW COMICS. SEE EXAMPLES OF HIS WORK AT GREGRUSSELL.US

P. 8 HOURLY COMICS DAY

HENRY EUDY WRITER/ARTIST



P. 8 ANXIETY TAKES THE WHEEL

CINDY SITES-WOOLEY WRITER

SITES-WOOLEY IS A CAT LOVER, VORACIOUS MUSIC LISTENER, KEYBOARD CONNOISSEUR, CHARLOTTE NATIVE AND DEMANDER OF POCKETS IN ALL CLOTHING. CONTACT HER AT @SPIKYBLUEALIEN ON TWITTER AND CINDY.SITES@GMAIL.COM.

GREG RUSSELL ARTIST



P. 10 A SIDEWALK PURRING

ALEX LIPPERT WRITER/ARTIST

CHARLOTTE ARTIST LIPPERT DOES A BIT OF IT ALL FROM MUSIC, FILM AND PLENTY TO DO WITH THE ARTS, BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS. FOLLOW HIS EXPLOITS ON IG @LIPPCHITZ OR CONTACT HIM AT HIS EMAIL LIPPCHITZ@GMAIL.COM.



P. 12 BUBBLEGUM FOR THE MIND

JONATHAN ROSENBAUM WRITER/ARTIST

MAJANATION IS THE BRAINCHILD OF ROSENBAUM. IT IS A GATHERING OF IDEAS AND ILLUSTRATIONS UNDER ONE ODD UMBRELLA. ROSENBAUM WAS BORN AT AN EARLY AGE AND TOOK TO DRAWING SOON AFTER. YOU CAN VISIT MAJANATION AT MAJANATION.COM.



P. 13 **MOONEY'S MODULE**

GERRY MOONEY WRITER/ARTIST

MOONEY IS A COMMERCIAL ARTIST AND ILLUSTRATOR WHO HAS RETIRED TO CLAREMORE, OK, WITH HIS WIFE, PLAYWRIGHT VICKI LYNN MOONEY. HE CONTINUES TO WORK ON PERSONAL PROJECTS AND THE OCCASIONAL FREELANCE WORK. CONTACT HIM AT GERRY@MOONEYART.COM.

P. 14 **BELLA**

GREG RUSSELL WRITER/ARTIST



P. 16 **THE UNFORESEEN BRIGADE**

KARLA HOLLAND WRITER/ARTIST

HOLLAND IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND CARTOONIST IN WILMINGTON, NC. WHEN NOT COMPLETING A PROJECT, SHE CONTEMPLATES ART'S NAVEL ON INSTAGRAM [@THEGORGONTRANSPLANT](https://www.instagram.com/thegorgontransplant).



P. 18 **THE MORGS**

STENCILSPRAY WRITER/ARTIST

STENCILSPRAY IS A CHARLOTTE-BASED STREET ARTIST AND MURALIST, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE TOUGH ASS CREW AND OWNER OF THE TAC ART GALLERY. ARTISTIC MEDIUMS INCLUDE SPRAYPAINT, ACRYLIC AND DIGITAL. CONTACT: IG [@STENCILSPRAY](https://www.instagram.com/stencilspray) OR [STENCILSPRAY.ART](https://www.stencilspray.art).

P. 20 **THE CREATIVE PROCESS**

JERRY KIRK WRITER/ARTIST



P. 22 **CANCELLED 1**

NATALIE ROBINSON WRITER/ARTIST

ROBINSON'S WORK FOCUSES ON SUBJECTS THAT WOULD BE CONTROVERSIAL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY BY CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO THROUGH A STYLISTICALLY SARCASTIC WAY. FOLLOW HER IG: [@NATALIEROBINSON.ART](https://www.instagram.com/natalierobinson.art).

P. 23 **CANCELLED 2**

NATALIE ROBINSON WRITER/ARTIST



P. 24 **EASY RIDR**

PAT HIGGINS WRITER/ARTIST

HIGGINS IS AN AWARD-WINNING ILLUSTRATOR, CARTOONIST AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER. HE LED WORKSHOPS AND SHOWED HIS WORK ACROSS THE U.S. HE CO-HOSTS THE MONTHLY ODDBALL ART HALL IN WILMINGTON, DE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CARTOONISTS SOCIETY.



P. 28 **SIREN**

KATHLEEN FINCH WRITER/ARTIST

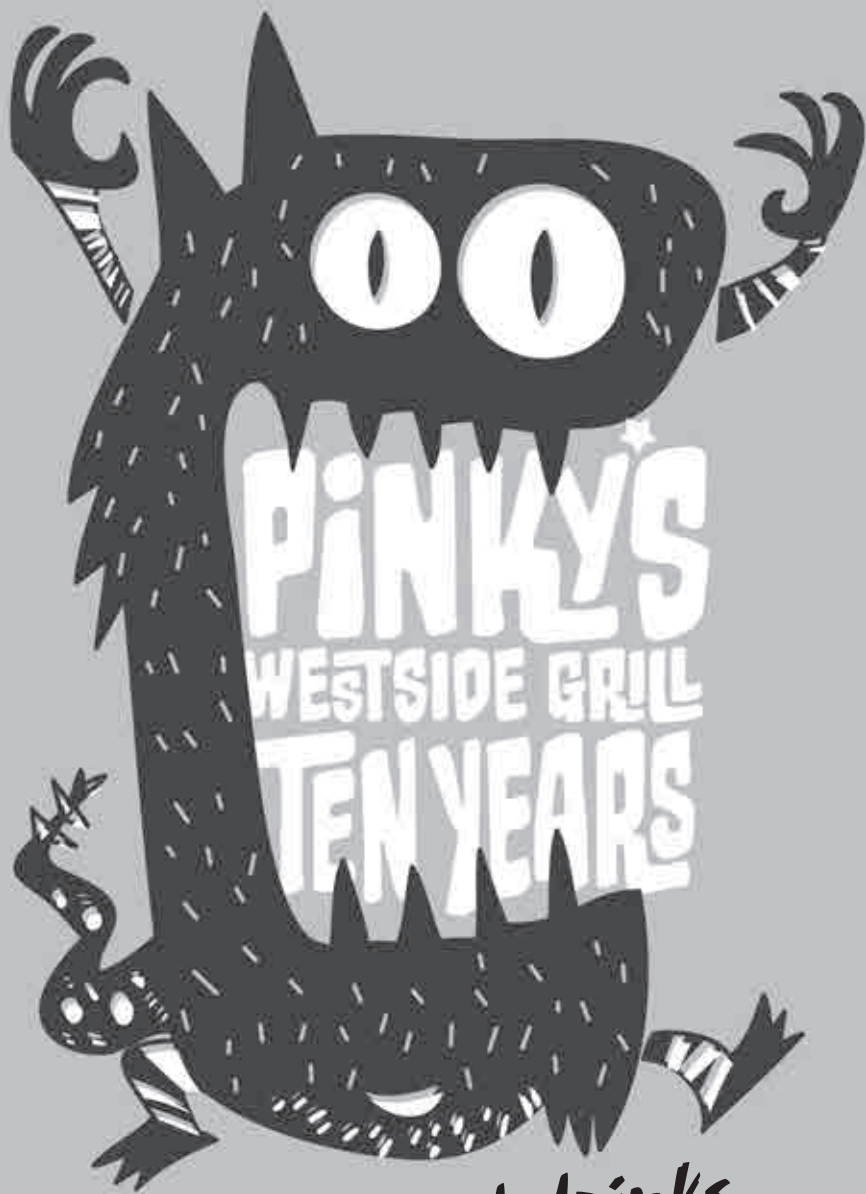
FINCH'S ARTWORK FOCUSES ON ILLUMINATING THE BREADTH OF HUMAN EMOTIONS. HER PHILOSOPHY CENTERS ON THE IDEA THAT SEEING THE WORTH IN IT ALL BRINGS THIS WORLD ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING A MORE PEACEFUL AND LOVING PLACE. IG [@YOURVOICEPOETSFREE](https://www.instagram.com/yourvoicepoetsfree).



P. 29 **I AM BEGINNING TO EMPATHISE WITH BUKOWSKI**

SARAH ALLEN REED WRITER/ARTIST

REED PICKED UP A PEN AT THE AGE OF EIGHT AND DREW HER FIRST COMIC BOOK. HER WORK DEALS WITH LOSS, TRANS AND QUEER ISSUES, HER OWN BATTLES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND HOMELESSNESS, AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TRAUMA AND RELIGION. [SARAHALLENREED.COM](https://www.sarahallenreed.com)



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